

*Sub 2*  
 CLAIMS

1 A switch provided with a signalling coupler, the switch including an interpreter to produce a signalling configuration on receiving a predetermined character  
 5 string corresponding to an order to send a signalling message, the signalling configuration depending on the signalling resources accessible to the coupler.

2/ A switch according to claim 1, wherein the coupler has  
 10 a receiver for adding a receive flag to a received signalling message, a detector for recognizing whether the received signalling message is addressed to the switch, and to process the message accordingly, and a  
 15 translator for replacing the receive flag with the predetermined order if the switch is not itself the destination.

3/ A method of sending a signalling message by a switch, the method comprising the following steps:  
 20     · a predetermined character string corresponding to a predetermined send order for said signalling message is added to said signalling message; and  
       · said send order is interpreted in an interpreter of a switch to produce a signalling configuration of said  
 25 switch, the signalling configuration depending on the signalling resources available to the switch.

4/ A method according to claim 3, wherein, to add the predetermined character string to the signalling message:  
 30     · a signalling message is received in a receiving exchange;  
       · a receive flag is added thereto;  
       · the destination of said signalling message is tested; and  
 35     · if a destination of the signalling message is different from said receiving exchange, the flag is replaced by said predetermined character string.

*Add A23*